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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001636

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/14/2008

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [OSCE](#) [PKK](#)

SUBJECT: OCALAN'S LAWYERS, BROTHER VISIT FOR FIRST TIME IN  
15 WEEKS

REF: A. ANKARA 1624

[1](#)B. ANKARA 1303

[1](#)C. ANKARA 972

[1](#)D. ADANA 44

Classified by Polcouns John Kunstadter; reasons 1.5 b and d.

[1](#)1. (U) Jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan was visited March 12 for the first time since November 27 by his brother Mehmet and three attorneys. Jandarma officials had previously blocked visits to Ocalan's Imrali Island prison, supposedly due to stormy weather (Reftels B-D).

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: This visit will do little, by itself, to relieve mounting tensions among Turkish Kurds, who fear they will suffer a GOT crackdown if/when the fighting starts in Iraq. By isolating Ocalan for such an extended period with such a flimsy excuse, the GOT has sent a clear message to the Kurds, as it did March 13 when it took legal actions against two pro-Kurdish parties (Reftel A).

PEARSON